

MINUTES
WOODSTOCK CITY COUNCIL
February 3, 2015
City Council Chambers

The regular meeting of the Woodstock City Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Turner on Tuesday, February 03, 2015 in Council Chambers at City Hall.

A roll call was taken.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Turner, Joseph Staryzynski, Mark Saladin, Maureen Larson, RB Thompson.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Mayor Brian Sager, J. Dillon.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Roscoe Stelford, City Attorney Ruth Schlossberg, Finance Director Paul Christensen, Director of Public Works Paul Ruscko, Opera House Managing Director John Scharres, HR Director Deb Schober, Chief of Police Lowen, Recreation Director David Zimmer.

OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk Arleen Quinn.

FLOOR DISCUSSION:

Public Comments:

Scott Gussert, 810 Cherry St, Woodstock, IL questioned the Council's use of a lobbyist, what procedure took place in choosing one, and how that progress is monitored. He also asked for the vetting process to be described.

Mayor Pro-Tem Turner responded that other municipalities, school districts, and private entities hire lobbyists to represent them and their interests in Springfield. He said that we both participate individually in that and may even coordinate with other governmental bodies for that purpose. Whatever you may feel about using a lobbyist it is a part of doing business if you want to be represented in Springfield. The Mayor Pro-Tem asked City Manager, R. Stelford to speak to the monetary value involved. R. Stelford spoke to the oversight involved in monitoring these efforts and said that the lobbyist sends reports, comes in and speaks with staff, and encourages staff, the Mayor, and City Council to do drive downs to Springfield. The next trip to Springfield will be a joint drive down with McHenry County Council of Government in early March to speak directly with key leaders in the House and Senate. It is an important part of today's environment that governments have to hire lobbyists to represent their interests if they are trying to pursue major projects to benefit the community. This Council has been dedicated to transportation and transportation projects which come with significant price tags. A lobbyist working on our behalf is the best means to acquire those projects.

The lobbying is a necessary part of the process. If we don't have representation in Springfield we could be left with having our interests not fully represented. We do keep an eye on this budget, just as we would with any other line item, as we vote on expenditures at that level.

As to the vetting process, Mr. Stelford explained that a committee was formed including himself, the mayor, the Director of EDC, and the Economic Development Director. Proposals were sent out to a number of lobbyists. We also reached out to both our State Senator and the State Rep for recommendations, based on these recommendations we sent out for interviews, brought in three different lobbyist firms to talk to, reviewed their credentials and as a result selected our lobbyist. Mayor Pro-Tem Turner said a very critical eye is given to this process, and that we expect performance from them and if that does not happen we will end the relationship.

RB Thompson joined the discussion saying that transportation is our primary focus because of the large price tag on it, particularly Rt. 47. Previously, we hired Mr. Milton See, a former Secretary of Transportation for the State of IL, former mayor of Mt. Vernon, who was well connected with the current secretary of transportation. He did not produce results which was a major disappointment. Our current lobbyist has been very productive, resulting in getting Rt. 14 between Woodstock and Crystal Lake improved. Phase 1 is already completed and they are now working on phase 2. These are dramatic improvements.

M. Larson said that Cook County, along with so many other entities in the State has a very large voice in Springfield. An absence of a voice in Springfield makes it too easy for them to put our concerns on the back burner. She said she saw value when, due to the efforts of our lobbyist, we were able to talk with Speaker Madigan on our last trip to Springfield. Mr. Gussert thanked the Council for their comments.

There were no other public comments.

Council Comments:

M. Saladin thanked public works and everyone involved in preparing for Groundhog Day, especially with the added magnitude of the snow storm. Mayor Pro-Tem Turner thanked the Woodstock Groundhog Day Committee as well. The Harold Ramis dedication ceremony at the movie theater went very well. There was great representation and a real appreciation expressed for what he had done in his career as well as in Woodstock. It's quite an honor for Woodstock to have his dedication plaque here at the theater.

RB Thompson said he would like to mention the work that the Johnson's, owners of Classic Cinema, did in fostering celebration for Groundhog Day. Shirley Johnson opened the theater at 10 AM. The three largest screens were holding a little more than 400 people with free showings. The showings ended at noon with the audiences flooding downtown Woodstock; that was a present from the Johnson's to the community and to their fellow retailers. RB also had a question for Paul Ruscko about the mountains of snow at the intersections. Were there no trucks to transport snow from the square to Emricson Park?

P. Ruscko said that all of the contractors that we hire were fully available with all of the resources we asked for while also offering additional resources to help clear the massive snow piles left from the blizzard. We started the operation at 10PM. The sheer volume of snow and the snow piles, with the 12 to 15 inches of snow, took an additional amount of time to haul.

M. Larson began her report on the Technical Advisory Panel by first thanking public works for their efforts with the snow removal. She then gave a brief report on meeting with the Technical

Advisory Panel, the objective being the highest and best use for the Old Courthouse, a process sponsored by the McHenry County Foundation. Ms. Larson met for the first time with the Urban Land Institute who have completed quite a few of these projects around the city. She felt that they are an impressive group of people and she also felt optimistic that professionals and experts will spend two days looking at the building, the community, and realistic possibilities with a view to the finances and the marketing needed. This will be a very helpful process that will take place March 10 and 11. They will have architects, finance, marketing and real estate development professionals volunteering their time, looking at just our building, and helping us figure out what the best use for it is. Hopefully, we can make the Courthouse the economic engine that we would all like to see it become.

Mayor Pro-Tem Turner gave a quick update on the Woodstock group that will take the marketing slogan, Woodstock Celebrates, on to accomplishment. The people from Woodstock Celebrates, Inc. have appointed Pete Gil and Beth Davis as their two members. After consultation with them we decided on a joint appointment of Tom Doherty from Studio 2015. Mayor Pro-Tem Turner met with Mr. Doherty two weeks ago, who was very thrilled to be a part of this, already bringing some interesting ideas and great enthusiasm to the table. He said he is optimistic to include in this campaign someone with Mr. Doherty's skills and experience. The group will meet again, set out a simple mission statement, and discuss how we are going to operate. We will then begin the process of looking for somebody to come in and partner with us who will take this campaign and do something with it.

It was noted that the courthouse stairs, but not the Sheriff's stairs, are completed at this time. Landscaping is still needed.

There were no additional council comments.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by M. Saladin, second by M. Larson to concur with Consent Agenda Items A-C-D 2.

- M. Saladin removed Item B
- M. Saladin removed Item D3

A. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

January 20, 2015 Regular City Council Meeting

B. WARRANTS: 3649 3650

C. MINUTES AND REPORTS:

Transportation Commission Minutes – November 19, 2014

Historic Preservation Minutes – November 24, 2015

D. MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 39

1. Property Tax Abatement Ordinance – Adoption of the following:

- a. Ordinance 15-O-05 abating the additional tax imposed by Ordinance 02- O-108 and supplemented by Ordinance 04-O-26 and further supplemented by Ordinance 13-O-42;
- b. Ordinance 15-O-06X abating the additional tax imposed by Ordinance 02-O-108 and supplemented by Ordinance 04-O-15;
- c. Ordinance 15-O-07 abating the additional tax imposed by Ordinance 14- O-35 refunding a portion of the Series 2003 and 2005B General Obligation Bonds.
- d. Ordinance 15-O-08 abating the additional tax imposed by Ordinance 08- O-41;
- e. Ordinance 15-O-09 abating the additional tax imposed by Ordinance 10- O-34;
- f. Ordinance 15-O-10 abating the additional tax imposed by Ordinance 10- O-34 refunding a portion of the Series 2000D Alternate Revenue Bonds;
- g. Ordinance 15-O-11 abating the additional tax imposed by Ordinance 10- O-34 refunding a portion of the Series 2002E Alternate Revenue Source Bonds;
- h. Ordinance 15-O-12 abating the additional tax imposed by Ordinance 10- O-34 refunding a portion of the Series 2002F Alternate Revenue Source Bonds; and
- i. Ordinance 15-O-13 abating the additional tax imposed by Ordinance 10- O-34 refunding a portion of the Series 2002G Alternate Revenue Source Bonds.

2. Emergency Purchase – LiveScan Fingerprinting Device – Affirmation of the emergency purchase of a Biometrics LiveScan Fingerprinting Device and associated materials in the amount of \$19,500.

3. Community and Economic Development Reorganization –

Approval of the following:

- a. An additional position of a Department Director for the Building, Planning and Zoning Department
- b. Updated/Adjusted FY14/15 Schedule of Authorized Positions and Salary Structures.

Mayor Pro-Tem Turner said the consent calendar now contains all items A-C-D2, having removed items B and D3. Mayor Pro-Tem Turner asked for a motion of concurrence on all remaining items.

A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: M. Saladin, M. Larson, RB Thompson, J. Starzynski, Mayor Pro-Tem Turner. Nays: None. Absentees: J. Dillon, Mayor Sager. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Item B Warrant 3649

Scott Gussert, 810 Cherry St., Woodstock, Il. voiced his concerns on Warrant 3649, page 18, packet page 33. The items Mr. Gussert inquired about are the successive check numbers 99750 99751, 99752, and 99753. He questioned unethical practices such as nepotism, and wanted further explanation to the common surname among these checks. Mayor Pro-Tem Turner asked R. Stelford to comment. R. Stelford said these are various payments that are made from the Recreation Department for services that were provided. Recreation Director David Zimmer then commented saying the services are for a basketball camp he runs outside of his normal employment. Jay helped run the camp, Matt is a referee, he also helped with the basketball camp and Ryan is a score keeper. Mayor Pro-Tem Turner asked Mr. Zimmer if other people participated in the camp as well. Mr. Zimmer said they have 22 games every Saturday with six or

seven referees. We have score keepers for Olsen, Creekside, and Prairie Wood. The camp was run at the recreation center, again part of the Recreation Department. They also helped over Christmas break when we ran skills camps in the mornings for the developmental programs. Mayor Pro-Tem Turner asked if payments are in line with what other people are paid and could documentation be provided if necessary. He went on to say that the Council always maintains transparency which is why the warrants are published. Mr. Zimmer said that documentation could be provided. Mr. Gussert was asked if he had any further questions, he did not, and thanked Council.

There being no further discussion, the Mayor Pro-Tem called for a vote on the motion on the floor.

Motion by M. Larson, seconded by M. Saladin to concur with Item B, Warrant 3649.

A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: M. Larson, RB Thompson, J. Starzynski, M. Saladin, Mayor Pro-Tem Turner. Nays: None. Absentees: J. Dillon, Mayor Sager. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Item D 3 Community and Economic Development Reorganization – Approval of the following:

- a. An additional position of a Department Director for the Building, Planning and Zoning Department**
- b. Updated/Adjusted FY14/15 Schedule of Authorized Positions and Salary Structures.**

M. Saladin commented that he thinks that having a separate, additional position is a good idea, as the City moves forward with various efforts. He was interested in R. Stelford's thoughts about the comment that sometimes the efforts of the building department are diametrically opposed to someone who is involved with economic activity.

R. Stelford explained that he thinks the opposition comes in as the Building Department is a regulatory body for the City and very important to protect public safety if necessary. The mission of business development/ economic personnel are sometimes opposed to building and planning as drawing in and supporting businesses sometimes are opposed to the regulatory process of building codes that also needs to be in place. Right now the Director has to be the mediator, deciding on the importance of giving in on a point to secure a business against the impact of public safety.

Comments on the coordinator position consisted of wanting someone who has experience with sales, is extroverted, very much in the community, very personable, and very good at building and retaining relationships. It was also suggested that they could have less municipal experience but possess considerable business development experience. It was also commented that other communities, such as Huntley are very aggressive and focused on their growth and Woodstock needs to use its positives to also be focused and aggressive in this area. This is a high impact position and as such will get a lot of scrutiny from Council.

Finance and HR have to have a very good relationship and that same relationship is required for Community Development and Building, Planning and Zoning. Building, Planning and Zoning is sluggish at this point. There is some excess resource capacity in that department that we can use to aim at economic development and help in those efforts until such point in time when things start taking off. We may, at that time, need to bring back some personnel in the building dept. with positions we haven't filled. M. Saladin asked if from a budget standpoint it will be a net zero at this point other than some changes in physical space. R. Stelford said he thought originally this approach might be a little more expensive than what the current approach is but after seeing the preliminary budgets it is going to be fairly close. It might be a little more expensive but not that much, closer to \$5,000 to \$10,000.

M. Larson asked if both people in Economic Development would be doing business retention and attraction. R Stelford said the person needs to be brought on board before a decision on that is made. It may be that one will work on retention and one work on attraction or it could also be based on industries dependent on their background experience.

There being no further discussion Mayor Pro-Tem Turner called for a vote on the motion on the floor.

Motion by M. Saladin, seconded by J. Starzynski, to approve and recommend that an additional position of a Department Director for the Building, Planning, and Zoning Department and for the up-date adjusted versions of the fiscal year 2014-15 schedule of authorized positions and salary structure as set forth in the packet.

A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: J. Starzynski, M. Saladin, M. Larson, RB Thompson, and Mayor Pro-Tem Turner. Nays: None. Absentees: Mayor Sager, J. Dillon. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

DISCUSSION OF THE PREVIOUSLY TRANSMITTED CIP BUDGET PROPOSED FOR FY15/16 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mayor Pro-Tem Turner said for those of us who have been through the process before we are at the stage now where we look at the wish list and we have the opportunity to provide some guidance on its direction and prioritization. We are not making decisions on those items today. That occurs, with input, at the budget workshop and then with final voting when we vote on the budget in April. Now we have the opportunity to talk about the general prioritization and asked R. Stelford for his comments.

R. Stelford said we did spend about 4.5 million on expenditures for capital outlay. This wish list document is important for a number of reasons; first to make sure we have identified all projects important to the community, taking a look at them and assessing their level of importance on the wish list. The total budgeted items on the wish list for FY15/16 is about 10 million.

Staff's job is to identify those projects important to the community while also addressing problems within the community so we have a working document where those issues are identified. The second step is to prioritize those projects. What are the A, B, and C priorities? It

then falls on Council to decide A, B, C, priority, which helps staff at the next step. When we look at funding these projects we look at the A's first, seeing how many of the A's we can fund. If we can fund all of the A's then we can look at the B's. If we can't fund all of the A's we usually don't get to the B's. Mayor Sager mentioned that he would like the façade wall around the square, which is now labeled a C, to be higher than a C. Councilwoman Dillon suggested that the mural next to the movie theater, which is also a C priority, be moved up to a B. We are not authorizing funding tonight but it will be on the agenda, probably in April. We will be doing a TIF financial analysis, projecting how much money we will have in the pot, and deciding what the real priorities are. We are in this process now. CIP gets done a little later. We have a couple of weeks to see what Council says, helping staff to make as few changes in the budget as possible.

Mayor Pro-Tem Turner said this is a document that is projected five years out and evolves over time. It is something that sets a pathway for us. We try to be strategic in trying to stage multiyear things that may occur. The date of the budget workshop is April 13, 2015.

M. Saladin commented that Council likes to hear from the public. This document is available from the City and we encourage the public to participate in this discussion. The full packet is available on line with the list of priorities.

RB Thompson said he would like to see work on the square completed. He spoke of the four corners, the capstones and the square lighting. He said he would like to see uniformity to the square so you have a sense of total integrity throughout the downtown which is the focus and core of the downtown district. It is where everyone wants to head if they are from out of town. He suggested that we get it finished and done and then work on other things beyond that outside of the square.

He also mentioned the bump outs saying originally they were so gorgeous with the vegetation and selection of colors, however, now they look bad and need to be restored. Perhaps inviting a garden club in to take charge of them would be a way to save money and keep these looking good. We should try to make them perennial and able to endure the abuses of winter snow and plowing etc. He concluded by saying that the write up for the mural says a history of Woodstock. It should be a movie related history of Woodstock.

The conversation turned to the abysmal bleacher situation at Woodstock High School. They are split, low, and not a good representation for the City. There is an area on Forest Ave, which is a one way street; there is a bump out to mid street so the bleachers could be built there creating a loss of 26 parking places. Since the school population has been reduced from 2,000 students to 1,100 the parking is no longer an issue. We would have the district accommodated in being able to build bleachers backward into the street and get them more concentrated and elevated and still not interfere with traffic flow. Mayor Pro-Tem Turner asked staff to reach out to District 200 and get their opinion. He stated that he thinks it is a D200 issue, but since it does represent horribly for the City of Woodstock, it should be discussed.

M. Larson commented that she understands why for purposes of function, environment, maintenance, and budget the new lights that are around Stage Left make complete sense but she

does not think they fit with the square. She said she realizes it's a long term investment and wants to be sure the right look is achieved. She is aware of all the research and work already invested in this project but also feels that this look is contemporary and doesn't fit. J. Starzynski said when you look at and compare the two sets one is less modern but he feels once they are all up it will be okay, and said that he thinks the Bell Tower looks great. M. Saladin said it is important to look at all alternatives but agrees that a uniform look will be totally different.

Mayor Pro-Tem Turner said that since it is still at a stage where it can be changed there should be discussion on the lights. R. Stelford said some investment has been made but if Council does not think this is the appropriate look for Woodstock then this is the time to make that adjustment before more money is spent. The existing system is falling apart and cannot be maintained, he thinks everyone on Council is okay with LED, it might just be a different look.

John Scharres was asked to give his comments. He said that originally one section was put up and the general consensus was to continue. There have been a few negative comments along with some positive ones from the public. Some of the brightness will be fine in the long term since Benton and some of the streets are rather dark even with a street lamp. The lights will be put all around the buildings and the side streets. During the holidays it's going to add a lot in making the entire square visually brighter and look more cohesive.

J. Scharres said the City is not completely committed at this point. We made some investment and did it in stages. There would be some going backward and it might take it back a season if there is some engineering involved to come up with something different with more spacing. The current system just crumbles and is barely visible with serious wiring problems.

Mayor Pro-Tem Turner urged council to take a second look to make sure they are comfortable with the direction the City is going in. If this is a key item he wants to encourage feedback on it so the square can be finished. Everyone should take a last look before we make a final decision as we cannot take something down once it has been completed. In the last 18 months other products have come out so we are able to better adjust color. With council's agreement and John's expertise we should take a look at new products to see if there is a better option for the square.

There were no additional comments. Mayor Pro-Tem Turner thanked R. Stelford and the department heads for their input on things, as well as John for his input on the lighting issue.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A comment on the pavement evaluation throughout the city was mentioned. R. Stelford said a hired firm will evaluate pavement. Depending on the evaluation there are various options we are considering, and the management plan that we use. We are currently looking at three different management plans to see what cost vs value of output would be. The intention here is to have a five year plan so we are always on top of what has to be done, get ahead of the repairs needed, and know what we're dealing with.

The Chester Gould Proclamation is at the request of Tom Firak, the director of a documentary on Mr. Gould. He has requested to hold a screening in Woodstock on Feb. 22 aired on WTTW. He's

put together a documentary with his sons about Chester Gould, which obviously features a lot of Woodstock, since Mr. Gould lived and worked in the community for many years. He would like to hold a screening of this program. He approached the Opera House. Unfortunately, there will be renovations taking place in the auditorium that weekend. Staff has been working with him to see if we can get it in Stage Left Café. They will issue a press release and have a reception there for the public to view the 3 PM screening. It was suggested that the movie theater might be a better venue for the screening. Holding this at Stage Left is not definite at this time. This is still being worked on.

M. Saladin asked if we need to discuss as a Council the businesses concerns about Rt 47 as IDOT rolls out plans. He said he has been hearing concerns about the fear of roundabouts and the barriers. RB Thompson said some high school boys worked on how to educate the public concerning roundabouts. One of the members of the transportation commission, Mark Indyke, was anti Rt 47 improvements, specifically the median and roundabouts. RB said he is curious to see what his reaction is now since the boys have completed their project about roundabouts.

R. Stelford said the City has been a conduit of information, partnering with the Chamber, hosting the RT 47 discussions that they have been having with the businesses that are being significantly impacted by IDOT's decisions. He said the City did some outreach and found that they were unaware of these meetings, and got IDOT to do some outreach bringing the businesses up to speed on the project. He believes the City needs to stay actively involved and continue to have outreach measures inviting them to come to meetings and express their concerns. The major concern seems to be about the median and what the median will do to impact business. We talked to the lobbyist about the median. They suggested businesses check into other communities that have had medians installed to see if it is working or not. IDOT feels the median is very important to help with traffic flow throughout the City of Woodstock. Mayor Pro-Tem Turner asked R. Stelford to start formulating an information session about this topic and see when it could be held.

Mayor Pro-Tem Turner said Council needs to do something to recognize Willis and Shirley Johnson's efforts on behalf of the City. They took millions of dollars and put it into the downtown creating activities. As a business person I think they are citizens of Woodstock that deserves recognition. It is time for us to do something about this. This is something that Council needs to think about for future discussion.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion M. Larson, and second by RB Thompson, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Woodstock City Council to the February 17, 2015 City Council meeting. Ayes: M. Saladin, M. Larson, RB Thompson, J. Starzynski, and Mayor Pro-Tem Turner. Nays: None. Absentees: J. Dillon, Mayor Sager. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Arleen Quinn- City Clerk